

Dorothy Kewcomb

REPORT
OF
SAMUEL GILBERT, TREASURER
OF THE
TOWN OF WALPOLE,

From March 29, 1852, to March 22, 1853.

ALSO, THE
School Committee's Annual Report,

FOR 1852-3.

BOSTON:
WHITE AND POTTER, PRINTERS TO THE STATE.
1853.

REPORT

OF THE

COMMISSIONERS OF THE LAND OFFICE

IN RESPONSE TO A RESOLUTION OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

PASSED MARCH 18, 1867

WASHINGTON

1868

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TOWN OF WALPOLE,

From March 29, 1852, to March 22, 1853.

TOWN CHARGES.

1852.		
April 5,	Paid to Chester Morse, abatement of poll tax,	\$1 50
	" E. A. Manning, services on School Committee,	16 50
March 1,	" Palmer Morey, services as Town Clerk,	38 32
	" Damrell & Moore, printing reports,	20 12
	" Charles Hartshorn, repair of bridge,	3 00
June 7,	" Leonard Plimpton, removing snow in District No. 2,	14 50
	" Dupee Blake, his share of school money, for the year 1850,	5 00
August 20,	" Daniel Page, work upon the pound,	16 02
October 20,	" White & Potter, printing 450 copies of valuation,	70 00
	" H. N. Godbold, copying valuation,	5 00

October 27,	Paid John A. Gould, services as Selectman, Assessor, and Overseer of Poor,	\$23 25
"	William Bacon, services as Selectman, Assessor, and Overseer of Poor,	24 38
"	Saml. Allen, Jr., services as Selectman, Assessor, and Overseer of Poor,	27 50
"	William M. Polley, painting in the vestry,	1 25
November 1,	" First Parish, in Walpole, use of vestry, for the year ending Nov. 1st, 1852,	36 00
"	George Ellis, for county tax, for year 1852,	769 22
" 2,	" Charles Hartshorn, planking bridge near Joshua Stetson's,	17 00
1853. February 21,	" H. F. Walling, 500 maps of Walpole,	200 00
March 7,	" John A. Gould, services as Selectman, Assessor, and Overseer of Poor, to date,	10 00
"	William Bacon, services as Selectman, Assessor, and Overseer of Poor, to date,	7 25
"	Saml. Allen, Jr., services as Selectman, Assessor, and Overseer of Poor, to date,	7 00
"	O. C. Ware, removing snow in District No. 1,	5 10
"	Samuel Gilbert, services as Town Treasurer, to date,	15 00
"	Wm. G. Gay, services as Constable, to date,	20 28
"	Willard Hartshorn, removing snow in District No. 9,	6 60
"	Greenwood Fuller, repairing bridge on Norfolk Street,	9 10

March 22,	Paid Saml. Gilbert, disc't on \$2,901 80, voluntary payments, at 4 per ct.,	\$116 07
"	Samuel Gilbert, collecting \$942 02, at 3 per ct.,	28 26
"	Saml. Gilbert, collecting \$3,852 22, at 1 per ct.,	38 52
"	Samuel Gilbert, abatement of taxes for year 1852, as per schedule,	8 40
"	Charles Everett, removing snow in District No. 13,	5 50
		<hr/> \$1,565 64

PAUPER ACCOUNT.

1852.		
April,	Paid Jason Ellis, attending funeral of the child of Mary Ann Burke,	\$1 50
"	Otis K. Horn, services one year at Almshouse,	200 00
"	Ebenezer Stone, attendance on poor to April 1st, 1852,	15 00
May,	Alvin Guild, wood for widow Fanny Clap,	10 00
October,	Ebenezer Stone, attendance on poor to October 1st, 1852,	15 00
November,	J. B. Hanners, Jr., for maintaining J. B. Hanners and wife, to date,	35 00
December,	Charles Hartshorn, one yoke of oxen for Poor Farm,	72 50
1853.		
February,	Otis K. Horn, supplies for the Alms- house,	30 00
"	N. B. Wilmarth, attending funeral of J. Carroll,	4 00
March,	J. B. Hanners, for support of J. B. Hanners and wife, to date,	17 00
"	John A. Gould, for aid to poor per- sons,	5 00
"	Wm. Bacon, for aid to poor persons,	1 25
		<hr/> \$406 25

SCHOOLS.

CENTRE DISTRICT.

1852.			
March,	Paid J. M. Merrick, boarding teacher, .	\$24	50
	“ Miss Sarah E. Underwood, for teaching, winter term, . . .	42	00
September,	“ Miss Ellen M. Metcalf, for teaching, summer term, . . .	58	50
	“ Miss O. A. Hixon, for teaching, summer term, . . .	54	50
	“ Mrs. Olive Hawes, for boarding teacher, summer term, . . .	62	00
1853.			
March,	“ L. Walker, for teaching, winter term, . . .	166	67
	“ Miss E. M. Metcalf, for teaching, winter term, . . .	73	50
	“ Samuel W. Bacon, for fuel, stationery, &c., . . .	83	13
		<hr/>	
		\$564	80

EAST DISTRICT.

1852.			
April,	Paid Jason Lewis, for wood, . . .	\$5	00
May,	“ Benjamin Pettee, for wood, . . .	2	63
September,	“ Miss S. C. Clark, for teaching, summer term, . . .	45	00
	“ Jason Lewis, boarding teacher, summer term, . . .	26	25
November,	“ Chester Morse, for wood, . . .	4	25
1853.			
March,	“ John Albee, for teaching, winter term, . . .	126	50
	“ Miss Abby N. Park, for teaching, winter term, . . .	36	00
		<hr/>	
		\$245	63

VILLAGE DISTRICT.

1852.			
August,	Paid Miss Sarah P. Cutter, for teaching,		
	summer term,	\$45	50
	" D. W. Pettee, for boarding teacher,		
	summer term,	26	00
	" James P. Gilbert, taking care of		
	school-house, summer term,	3	25
December,	" Wm. G. Gay, for wood,	29	50
1853.			
March,	" Wm. G. Gay, for wood,	4	50
	" Miss Sarah P. Cutter, for teaching,		
	winter term,	78	00
	" D. W. Pettee, for boarding teacher,		
	winter term,	32	00
	" Wm. G. Gay, for wood,	4	50
		<hr/>	
		\$223	25

SOUTH DISTRICT.

1852.			
April,	Paid Newell Boyden, for wood,	\$2	00
August,	" Ezra Dickerman, sawing wood,	3	00
October,	" Miss Abby N. Park, for teaching,		
	summer term,	60	00
	" Otis Boyden, for boarding teacher,		
	summer term,	30	00
1853.			
March,	" James Ellis, for wood,	8	67
		<hr/>	
		\$103	67

WEST DISTRICT.

1852.			
September,	Paid Miss Ann A. Hosmer, for teaching,		
	summer term,	\$26	00
	" Newell Ware, for boarding teacher,		
	summer term,	20	50
1853.			
March,	" Daniel P. Gage, for teaching, win-		
	ter term,	60	00
	" Oren C. Ware, for boarding teacher,		
	winter term,	36	72
		<hr/>	
		\$143	22

NORTH DISTRICT.

1852.			
September,	Paid Miss Abby Guild, for teaching, summer term,	\$53 90	
	" Charles Hartshorn, for boarding teacher, summer term,	30 92	
1853.			
February,	" A. F. Hyland, for teaching, winter term,	152 00	
March,	" Samuel Guild, for wood,	14 50	
			<hr/>
			\$251 32

BUBBLING BROOK DISTRICT.

1853.			
February,	Paid Alfred R. Ellis, a portion of school money for 1852,	\$86 67	
March,	" Alfred R. Ellis, balance of school money for 1851,	23 31	
			<hr/>
			\$109 98

RECEIPTS.

1852.			
March 29,	Balance on hand, from old account,	\$1,466 92	
April 4,	Received of Mr. Pope, for pedlar's license,	6 00	
" 29,	Received of D. B. Farrington, ditto,	6 00	
June 2,	Received of Elisha Baker, ditto,	6 00	
" 3,	Cash received, for taxes extended in 1850,	6 56	
" 25,	Received from State, for State paupers,	24 76	
July 28,	Received town's proportion of State School Fund, for 1852,	83 88	
Sept. 29,	Cash received, for taxes extended in 1851,	112 36	
	Taxes committed for collection, as follows:		
	County tax,	769 22	
	Town tax,	2,900 00	
	Overlayings,	178 80	

Dec. 17,	Cash received, from town of Franklin,	
1853.	for support of William Buffington, .	\$6 88
January 10,	Recived of William Hart, for pedlar's	
	license,	6 00
February 14,	Received, for one yoke of oxen from	
	Poor Farm,	105 00
" 28,	Received of Earl S. Williams, interest	
	on Poor Fund,	8 19
	Cash received, for highway deficiencies	
	for 1850 and 1851,	19 54
		<hr/>
		\$5,706 11

RECAPITULATION.

Town Charges,	.	.	.	.	.	\$1,565 64
Pauper Account,	.	.	.	.	.	406 25
Paid for support of Schools,	.	.	.	.	.	1,641 87
Taxes extended, by order of Assessors,	.	.	.	.	.	152 47
Balance in the Treasury, and carried to new account,	.	.	.	.	.	1,939 88
						<hr/>
						\$5,706 11

Respectfully submitted,

SAMUEL GILBERT, *Treasurer.*

WALPOLE, March 22, 1853.

The Committee appointed by the Town, to audit the accounts of the Treasurer, have carefully made the examination required of them, and find said accounts correctly kept.

F. W. BIRD,	} <i>Committee.</i>
DANIEL ALLEN, JR.,	
SAMUEL ALLEN, JR.,	

The above statement shows a balance in the hands of the Treasurer, of \$1,939 88. There are, however, sundry sums due, as follows, viz. :—

To the Centre School District,	.	.	.	.	.	\$109 87
“ Village	“	.	.	.	.	79 92
“ East	“	.	.	.	.	87 47
“ South	“	.	.	.	.	311 24
“ West	“	.	.	.	.	63 19
“ North	“	.	.	.	.	84 96
To Otis K. Horn, for one year's services at Almshouse,						200 00
“ School Committee, about	50 00
“ Town Clerk, about	35 00

Making a sum total now due of	\$1,021 65
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And leaving an unappropriated balance in the Treasury,

of about	\$918 23
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REPORT
OF THE
SCHOOL COMMITTEE,
OF THE
TOWN OF WALPOLE,
FOR 1852-3.

THE School Committee report a generally favorable condition of the schools. Whatever exceptions we may make to this statement will not seriously modify its truth. For several years, our schools have been improving in character, and answering more and more the purposes of their establishment. That they have not reached the highest point of improvement, is sufficiently obvious. Those best acquainted with the details of their condition, are most intelligently convinced of this fact. We know that there are deficiencies to be supplied, and errors to be corrected. We are too well aware of the inherent difficulties of the subject, to imagine that we can attain more than a very gradual progress. If we are going in the right direction, and can steadily maintain our course, it is all we can reasonably expect. We believe that this is our position ; that we are making advances, overcoming hindrances, and every year bringing the schools along on the right path. Slowly indeed, but surely raising their character and increasing their efficiency ;

making them more instrumental in fitting our children to commence the business of life in a useful and honorable manner.

This is confessedly the chief interest of the town. In our endeavor to manage it wisely, we have felt a profound feeling of responsibility. We have expended much time and pains in superintending the labors of the teachers, and in directing and encouraging the efforts of the pupils. And we are happy in being able to report that, in almost every instance, the teachers have proved competent and faithful, and that the schools have made a gratifying progress. Whenever there has been a comparative failure, or whenever the progress of the school has not corresponded with our expectations, the result has been due to causes beyond our control. Some of these we shall now specify.

As the character of the school depends mainly upon that of the teacher, our first solicitude has been expended upon him. And here we have encountered a serious practical difficulty, the consequence of which has been, that we have not always had the best teacher that might have been procured,—only the best that has been offered for examination. The town holds this Committee responsible for the condition and progress of the schools, without seeming to consider that the responsibility is divided between us and the prudential agents of the several Districts. True, we have worked harmoniously together. The evil is in the system, which assigns to the agent the business of procuring and contracting with the teacher, and to this Committee, his examination and approbation. It limits our choice. We have no option, but to accept or reject the individual who is offered ; and frequently, at the last moment before the time appointed for the commencement of the school. We must either give a license or disappoint the District, and cause further trouble and expense. Whereas, were the whole subject intrusted to us, we should probably have a number of candidates from whom we might select one in season. It places us in an unpleasant dilemma. We may be satisfied as to the literary qualifications of the candidate, and yet fully aware that, from infelicities of temper, or lack of energy or of judgment, or some other cause, he is not the man to answer the just expectations of the people. He may be a worthy man, but not the best teacher that might have been obtained, had there been a wider range of choice. As the Committee

is responsible only to the town, so the teacher is responsible only to the Committee ; and it may be, that his responsibility would be more deeply felt, if he owed his selection as well as his appointment, to their agency alone.

For ourselves we desire no additional labor. We are aware that the course here proposed, would increase the labors of our successors in office. We have in view, solely the interests of the schools, which interests, we think, would be promoted by authorizing this Committee to procure and hire the teachers. And to do this without primary reference to any particular school ; but having procured a teacher, to place him in that position where we shall consider him likely to be most useful. As an experiment, it will be attended with little risk ; and if unsuccessful, can be abandoned.

Some of our schools have suffered from bad houses. That we have had good schools in poor buildings, only shows what a good teacher may do in unfavorable circumstances, not what he might have done had he been better situated. His labor has been greater and his success less than they might have been. Because the children have lived through the year, it does not follow that they have lived comfortably, nor that they have escaped suffering from a small, ill-built, ill-ventilated school-house. Undoubtedly they have suffered in health, and may have laid the foundation of permanent disorders. One school was obliged to divide and to find a room for part of its scholars in a neighboring house, which room was as badly contrived and arranged as the school-house itself. Another school had more than seventy scholars and two teachers in a small room, where the confusion of recitations at the same time greatly impeded the progress of the pupils and increased the labor of the teachers. Another school-house had no recitation-seats, no suitable black-boards, no convenient standing-place for classes : and the wonder is, that under such circumstances they accomplished what they did. It is impossible, in such wretched buildings, to conduct the business of the school satisfactorily, or to maintain good discipline, without extra trouble, or to preserve the health and comfort of the children. Better care is taken of good houses than of bad ; and we are gratified to be able to report that our new houses have been treated, generally, with commendable attention. The exceptions to this remark have occurred before the schools com-

menced in the morning and at noon. Some children come an hour before school-time, and in the teacher's absence practice their gymnastic exercises at the expense of the house, especially of the stairs and balustrades.

No method has yet proved altogether successful in securing a punctual attendance of the children at the beginning of the morning school. We bring this subject to the notice of parents, because they can do more towards a reformation in this particular than the committee or teachers. Much time is lost and confusion occasioned by the irregular and late entrance of pupils after the school has begun.

Several of the schools are destitute of maps, outline maps, physiological charts and globes,—all necessary to clear and definite ideas of the subjects to which they respectively relate. The expense of these things is small; the advantages derived from their use are great. We earnestly call the attention of parents to this matter in the hope that this deficiency will soon be remedied.

The Centre Summer School was taught by Miss Ellen M. Metcalf; also the Primary School in the same District during the winter term,—in both cases successfully. Miss Metcalf is an industrious and faithful teacher, keeping good order, and carrying her little pupils along pleasantly in the path of their early studies. Her first class is now fit to be transferred to the Grammar School.

The Primary School was taught in the summer by Miss Hixon, whose character and success as a teacher are well known from her previous engagements in this town.

The Centre School was taught during the winter by Mr. Leonard Walker. We congratulate the district upon the possession of this experienced teacher, and upon the marked success that has attended his labors. The school has been a model of good order and cheerful industry. The children love and respect their teacher, and appreciate his efforts at their value. In conformity with our instructions and his own views, Mr. Walker has aimed at thorough and minute acquaintance with the elements of each study, rather than to skim over the surface of many branches; governed by the

thought, that the value of knowledge depends, in a large degree, upon the facility with which it may be converted, at short notice, into practical wisdom.

In English Grammar, especially, his classes have made a very gratifying progress. In Arithmetic, Algebra, and Physiology, they have gained credit for him and for themselves. The improvement in reading is less marked than in the above-named studies, though in this they have made a good beginning. We are gratified with this school. The District has been at much expense for it, but is amply repaid by the fine character it has assumed, and the amount of intellectual energy which has been developed in the scholars. We hope it will long sustain its high rank, under the care of the same teacher. All the circumstances of the school are favorable to its progress. In regard to the house, there is nothing to be desired. It is large, well ventilated, well arranged, and well furnished; in short, a model house. The scholars are of such ages and attainments that they need be divided into only two classes for most of their studies, thus greatly facilitating the teacher's labors. The result of the past season is every way encouraging.

The Summer School in the South District was taught by Miss Abby N. Park, who did her duty faithfully; but no fidelity could carry forward so great a number of scholars of every age, from four to sixteen, in a manner to satisfy a conscientious teacher, or to promote the true interests of the school. The educational interests of that District urgently demand the speedy erection of a new school-house, with two rooms, and the employment of two teachers. Such a course is better than the division of the District, which would create two poor schools, to say nothing of the increased expense.

In the winter, Mr. Brown sustained his well-known reputation as a first-rate teacher, in spite of the embarrassments growing out of his want of suitable accommodations. It is not necessary to repeat what was said in a former report, of his abilities, enterprise, and industry. His classes in Arithmetic, Geometry, Geography, Algebra, Physiology, and Reading, exhibited proofs not only of industrious application, but also of intelligent appreciation of the subjects studied. The class in Worcester's History made a commendable progress. The same may be said of a smaller class in Intellectual

Arithmetic, which showed an uncommon thoroughness, and an intellectual life and activity seldom exhibited by children of their age. The young pupils under the immediate care of Miss Emerson, and for a part of the time, of Miss Boyden, came up to our expectations. The confusion unavoidable where two classes recite in the same room, at the same time, has been a draw-back from the comfort and prosperity of this school. We hope that District will soon offer the school to the same or other equally accomplished teachers, in a house that shall need no apology.

The North School was taught in the summer by Miss Abby Guild, who needs no commendation from us, having taught in this town several years with uniform success.

The school was taught during the winter term by Mr. A. F. Hyland, a man of sufficient learning and industry, but without that peculiar power of awakening and directing the faculties, which distinguishes the best teachers. At the final examination, the appearance of the school was less brilliant, and the answers to the questions less ready than we could have desired. Possibly the school was a little below some others. If so, something is due to the miserable apology for a school-house, which is remarkably fitted to distort the forms and endanger the health of the scholars. We did not discover any lack of order or of general good behavior, but there was a less enthusiastic devotion to study than we have been accustomed to see in that school.

The East School was taught in the summer by Miss Clark. She passed her examination before the Committee with decided credit to herself; but the school, partly on account of its numbers and insufficient accommodations, and partly for want of energy and tact on the part of the teacher, did not make such progress as we at first anticipated. Yet there was a visible improvement in the appearance of the school during the last half of the term, and the closing examination was very creditable to both teacher and pupils.

In the winter, this school having been divided into a primary and higher department, was committed to the care of Miss Abby N. Park and Mr. John Albee, and though, for some causes not fully intelligible to the Committee, there was a want of full harmony between the

teacher and pupils in the higher department. The benefits of the new arrangement were very clearly manifested in both divisions. Their closing examinations were very satisfactory, and we now await the erection of "a model school-house," in which we hope to find a model school. There is in this district too much promising talent to be obstructed and incommoded in the present building, even if we leave the number of scholars out of the question. This school is likely, under more favorable circumstances, to become one of our best.

The Village School has been under the care of Miss S. P. Cutter, during the whole year, and has been steadily improving. We have found here a better state of discipline, and more studiousness than formerly. Miss C., by her unwearied exertions, in season and out of season, by day and in the evening, has richly merited her reëngagement for the coming term. She unites energy with kindness, and, while winning the ardent love of her pupils, has secured the esteem and respect of their parents. And here we may remark, without detracting in the least from the reputation of others, that, during the past year, our female teachers,—perhaps without exception,—have been peculiarly respected here, and have excited a very happy *moral* influence, for which we trust their pupils will never cease to be grateful.

Aside from the regular daily exercises in this school, Miss C., with her older classes, has sustained an occasional evening school, during the winter,—and the exhibition at its close, besides showing that attention had been profitably directed to declamation and dialogue, produced a handsome sum of money, which is to be applied to the purchase of charts, &c., for the further improvement of the scholars.

The West School was taught in the summer by Miss A. H. Hosmer, in the winter by Mr. Daniel P. Gage. We have no special criticisms to make upon this school ; it is quiet, harmonious, embracing a good degree of talent, provided with a very pleasant house, (which, by the way, sadly needs a good ventilator,) and, though interrupted for a short time in the winter by the illness and withdrawal of the teacher first employed, resumed its course under Mr. G., and while, as usual, very small, went on very satisfactorily.

Owing to the want of fidelity on the part of some of our teachers in making out and sending in their registers, we are unable to present to the town the definite statistics of the schools. We can, however, speak in general terms of an increased degree of punctuality and regularity on the part of our scholars, and of the commendable provision made in various ways for schools of sufficient length. There is still room for improvement, as has been already suggested, and this improvement we hope will be witnessed by our successors in this office.

JNO. M. MERRICK,
 GEORGE H. NEWHALL, } *School Committee.*
 BAINBRIDGE MOWRY,